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# The Spies Now Out In The Cold

The spies who were tossed out into the cold did not like it much.

It is hard to be up to secret skullduggery for the sake of your country and then all of a sudden be told that your services are no longer required. You might even be inclined to strike back a little, oh say, by talking discreetly to old friends in Congress or to old Washington hands. Whatever you had to say, discreetly of course, would probably not reflect well on the man who fired you.

That is something of what has happened to the new Central Intelligence Director, Admiral Stansfield Turner.

Turner took over as CIA head earlier this year, at a hard time for that intelligence organization, when abuses of past years were depressingly in the news. One such abuse, the admitted fact of a CIA director flat lying to a congressional committee and in that way to the American public, raised chilling questions



about the possibility of other lies, other CIA activities that might not bear public scrutiny.

A few weeks ago, Turner ordered the retirement of 820 CIA employees, many of them senior officers. There was a considerable amount of grumbling, needless to say, and assorted rumors about Turner began surfacing ever so now and then. One, only recently, suggested that the White House would soon get rid of Turner as CIA director; that one did not last, it was only a few days later that President Carter issued a new guideline memo for American intelligence agencies which pretty clearly gave Turner increased authority in the field.

The notion of any guideline suggests limits, and that has been a major problem with the CIA; there really have not been guidelines, not any clear set of rules stating what the CIA could do and what the CIA could not do. Extreme example: Most Americans would probably assume that this nation does not as a matter of principle believe in political assassinations, does not find it acceptable to kill political leaders in other nations. But it was only this past year that President Carter specifically put this in the form of an order to

the CIA. There is evidence that, at the least, the CIA actively considered carrying out such political murders in given countries.

Atlanta Congressman Wyche Fowler is very much involved in these matters. He is on the House committee to oversee American intelligence operations, a new committee which with its Senate counterpart probably comes closer to something like real supervision of intelligence operations than anything ever has.

There really needs to be such supervision, even though it is likely that most intelligence officers have labored only in what they believed to be the best interests of their country. As Fowler observes, history suggests that an agency like the CIA must have some outside regulation, it is too much to expect internal organizational restraints to be adequate (a lesson we have seen with both the FBI and the CIA).

Turner has spoken favorably of the new congressional committees, saying they "keep us sort of in tune with the American public. I think that's where the intelligence community has gone astray before: They were a little bit too isolated. Going up and testifying on Capitol Hill regularly keeps you from being isolated."